

both of the video display console **3** and the base console **4**. One of the selected angles could be plus or minus ninety degrees relative to a line **24**, which is collinear with a direction of extent of the linkage guide **21**. The other of the angles could be plus or minus ninety degrees relative to a line **25**, which is collinear with a direction of extent of the linkage guide **22**.

One particular advantage of the relative tilt between the video display console **3** and the base console **4** is that the user can set the base console **4** of the communication terminal **1** on a surface **19**, such as a desk, a chair or the ground. If the base console **4** is of sufficient weight, e.g. contains a battery, the communication terminal **1** will balance in this configuration, as illustrated in FIG. 7. This configuration provides a convenient, hands-free manner for the user to view the video display **7** and remain a suitable distance from the camera lens **6**, while still being close enough to utilize the microphone **8** and hear the speaker **9**.

Another advantage of the relative tilting is that the video display console **3** can be made to overlay the base console **4**, as illustrated in FIG. 8. In this configuration, the video display **7** and camera lens **6** face the base console **4** and are protected. Further, the communication terminal **1** is made more compact for carrying or storage.

Electrical connections would exist between the video display console **3** and the base console **4**. These electrical connections could be provided by a flexible ribbon cable **18** extending between the two consoles **3**, **4**. Alternatively, one or both of the linkages **16A**, **16B** could be hollow and the electrical connections could pass through the hollow space (s) within the linkages **16A**, **16B**. It would also be suitable to provide wireless communications between the three consoles, such as an infrared link, inductive link or radio signals.

In order to provide dust and moisture protection to the exposed area between the video display console **3** and the base console **4**, when the video display console **3** is in the second position, a bellows could be provided. The bellows would be constructed of a highly flexible material, such as plastic, rubber, or a synthetic cloth, and would be connected to both the video display console **3** and the base console **4**. When the video display console **3** is in the first position, the bellows would collapse upon itself to occupy a small space between the video display console **3** and the base console **4**.

FIG. 9 illustrates a first alternative embodiment of the communication terminal **1**. In this embodiment, the camera console **2** is located to a side of the video display console **3**. The image **42** displayed on the video display **7** would be oriented ninety degrees relative to a longitudinal direction of the communication terminal **1**. All other interconnections, and modifications, discussed in relation to FIG. 1-8 would equally apply to the communication terminal **1** of FIG. 9.

As illustrated in FIG. 10, when the user operates the communication terminal **1** of FIG. 9, his head would be partially encircled by the consoles **2**, **3**, **4**. In this orientation, the video display **7** would be place into the line of sight **43** of the user, the speaker **9** would be adjacent to the user's ear **44**, and the microphone **8** would be in front of the user's mouth. It should be noted that the spacing between the video display **7** and the user's eyes can be aligned and adjusted via the linkages **16A**, **16B** and the hinges **17**. Therefore, FIG. 9 illustrates the preferred embodiment of the invention, when the communication terminal **1** is to be operated in the orientation illustrated in FIG. 10.

It would also be possible to operate the communication terminal **1**, illustrated in FIG. 1-8, in the orientation of FIG.

10. Here, the camera lens **6** would be off-center of the user's face, and a slight profile image would be transmitted. Also, it would be required to process the signals of the camera and video display **7** so as to rotate the images by ninety degrees.

It is envisioned that a manual switch would be provided on one of the consoles **2**, **3**, **4**, so that the user could select whether to operate the communication terminal **1** as illustrated in FIG. 7 or as illustrated in FIG. 10. The manual switch would cause the processing of the image signals to be rotated by ninety degrees. Also, the manual switch could be replaced by an automatic switch, such as a mercury switch, which automatically determines the orientation of the communication terminal **1** during use and processes the image signals accordingly.

FIGS. 11-13 illustrate a second alternative embodiment of the communication terminal **1**. Here, the video display console **3**, in its first position, is not abutting the base console **4**. Rather, the video display console **4**, and the camera console **2**, reside within the base console **4** when the video display console **3** is in its first position.

An opening **49** is provided in a lower, side surface of the base console **4**. The opening **49** serves to receive the video display console **3** and camera console **2**. A release latch button **48** is provided on the base console **4** to cause the video display console **3** to protrude through the opening **49**.

Since the base console **4** is the only console normally exposed, it is possible to reduce the length of the communication terminal **1**. Further, the ruggedness of the unit is improved, since the camera lens **6** and video display **7** are protected within the base console **4** when not in use.

A second microphone **51** can be included on the base console **4** so that the communication terminal **1** can be operated like a conventional cell phone, when it is not desired or possible to utilize the video features. Alternatively, it would be possible to provide the microphone **8** near an edge of the video display console **3** so that the microphone **8** resides at or near the opening **49** and can receive voice sounds. Also, the base console **4** could include a small, LCD screen **50** to indicate the number dialed, caller ID, messages waiting, etc. when the base console **4** is being used as a conventional cell phone.

FIG. 12 is a cross-section taken across line 12-12 of FIG. 11. It can be seen that one of a pair of telescoping linkages **30**, **31**, **32** connects the video display console **3** to the base console **4**. As described in relation to FIG. 7, the upper telescoping link **30** would include the protrusion **23** riding in the linkage track. Further, the hinges **17** would be provided at the distal ends of the two linkages **16A**, **16B**. Of course, other forms of linkages could be used, such as a telescoping plate linkage, or a fixed length linkage.

FIG. 13 illustrates the video display console **3** in its second position, remote from the base console **4**. In the second position, the camera console **2** can be rotated relative to the display console **3**, in a manner consistent with the discussion above relating to FIGS. 3-4. Further, the communication terminal **1** can be used by the operator, as illustrated in FIG. 10.

FIG. 14 illustrates a third alternative embodiment of the communication terminal **1**. In the third alternative embodiment, the video display console **3** and camera console **2** are integrated into the telescoping linkages **16A**, **16B**. The integration occurs by including additional telescoping links **52** adapted to slide into telescoping links **32**. The additional telescoping links **52** would include miniature hinges **53** which can slide, along with the telescoping links **52**, into the telescoping links **32**.